



NEWS RELEASE

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DON'T ADD RED AND BLUE TO YOUR GREEN DURING THIS YEAR'S SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

~ Troopers will be out looking for impaired drivers ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – There will be plenty of celebrations over the next few days leading up to St. Patrick's Day on Monday. Florida Highway Patrol troopers will be on the lookout for impaired drivers during the weekend leading up to St. Patrick's Day, March 14 – 17 as part of the national effort called Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. In addition to focusing on impaired drivers, the Patrol will be looking for those who fail to wear a seat belt, speed and aggressive driving.

"St. Patrick's Day is known for its festivities. Unfortunately, those festivities often turn to tragedies when partygoers who have been drinking get behind the wheel of a car," said FHP Lt. Colonel Kelly Hildreth. "Be smart, if you take part in this year's festivities, chose a designated driver. There's never an excuse for drinking and driving."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that more than 269 people have been senselessly killed nationwide in crashes involving drunk drivers during the St. Patrick's Day holiday from 2007 to 2011. Those fatalities were preventable. FHP encourages all residents of the state to drive carefully, and together we will make a difference.

The Patrol offers these tips to make your St. Patrick's Day holiday safer:

- Before the festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation to get home safely.
- Don't drive distracted: Anything that takes your full attention off of the road, even for a second, could be deadly.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @[FLHSMV](https://twitter.com/FLHSMV) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FLHSMV).

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